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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Extension Service
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TO STATE DIRECTORS OF EXTENSION
AND STATE FARM LABOR SUPERVISORS:

Subject: Current Farm Labor News No. 32

Officially the Emergency Farm Labor Program of the Cooperative Agricultural Extension Service terminates today. All activities of the next 30 days will be incident to liquidation. The wartime farm labor assignment was a tough one made more difficult by the lateness of the change over from the War Manpower Commission to Agriculture and by the delays incident to the clearance of authority and funds.

The job has been well done. For the five years of the Emergency Farm Labor Program, 1943-47, total agricultural production on American farms exceeded all previous records by an average of 8 percent per year. For farmers to have accomplished that feat for five consecutive years in the face of a loss of 1,600,000 skilled agricultural workers between the 1942 and 1943 crop seasons and other wartime difficulties is little short of miraculous.

Again I will call your attention to the indices of farm employment and of total agricultural production for the war emergency period. You will note that the final index of production for 1946 and the latest tentative production index for 1947 both equal the 1944 record. For the years 1944, 1945, 1946 and 1947 the ratio of production to employment has been 46 to 48 points above the prewar base.

Year	Index of Farm Employment	Index of Total Agricultural Production	Ratio of Agricultural Production to Farm Employment
1935-39 base	100	100	100
1941	95	113	119
1942	95	124	130
1943	94	128	136
1944	92	136	148
1945	90	133	148
1946	92	136	148
1947	93	136	146

Farm labor funds have been expended wisely. You will also be interested in the following summary statement covering Section 2 funds made available by the Congress for financing the intrastate farm labor program of the State Agricultural Extension Services

Year	Total funds available for allocation to States	Total expenditures by State Extension Services	Unexpended balance
1943 (8 mos.)	\$ 9,000,000	\$4,597,659	\$4,402,341
1944	12,060,341	8,035,838	4,024,503
1945	8,923,011	7,755,615	1,167,396
1946	8,486,957	6,596,719	1,890,238
1947	6,653,138	6,074,417*	578,721*

*Preliminary estimate

Were it possible to compute a ratio of farm labor accomplishments to farm labor expenditures for each of the five years, the resulting figures would be even more phenomenal than the data on relationship of agricultural production to farm employment given above.

Final liquidation of the emergency program is already well advanced. Extension farm labor property is being disposed of advantageously. The book will be closed in an orderly manner on January 30.

The Emergency Farm Labor Program has been a satisfying experience to all extension workers associated with it and much has been learned that will be reflected in extension programs and activities in the years just ahead.

This office sincerely appreciates the spirit of cooperation and determination with which State Extension Directors and State Farm Labor Supervisors approached the original task of setting up the organization and have consistently followed since whenever difficult problems arose.

Thanks again to each one of you.

Yours very truly,

Meredith C. Wilson

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Deputy Director of Extension
Farm Labor Program

